NEWS LETTER

Issued by
Maryland Vegetable Growers' Association,
W. R. Ballard,
Secretary-Treasurer.

College Park, Maryland. Vol. XVII No. 1. January & February, 1940.

The Annual Meetings. Instead of having a number of formal papers as in the past, the program was developed with the idea of having growers and research workers enter into a general discussion of questions of timely interest.

The morning session was devoted to a discussion of the general topic "Production Problems". As an introduction, Dr. C. H. Mahoney reported on the progress of vegetable research in Maryland and in other states with particular reference to fertilizer placement and variety trials.

The general discussion was led by County Agent, J. P. Brown, and included the following topics, "experience with new varieties, fertilizer placement for various crops, control of insect pests and plant diseases affecting vegetable crops, labor difficulties which have been encountered, and the need for better grading and packing of products being merchandised." The discussions were entered into freely by both growers and research workers and many valuable points were presented.

The afternoon session was devoted to two general topics; (1) The Baltimore Produce Market Terminal and the progress being made toward better marketing facilities for marketing produce in Baltimore. (2) The need for a Vegetable Seed Law.

The following officers were elected for the year 1940:

President, H. J. W. Rayner, Salisbury,
Vice-President, Clay Whiteford, Whiteford,
Secretary-Treasurer, W. R. Ballard, College Park,
Directors:
Edgar L. Williams, Salisbury (To fill unexpired term of H. J. W. Rayner. Term expires January 1942.)
C. C. Phillips, Quantico (Term expires January, 1941.)
J. Miles Bankford, Pocomoke (Re-elected - Term expires January, 1943).

Director for Farm Bureau, F. Ridgely Todd, Sparrows Point,
Delegate to " " " , C. E. Hammond, Brooklyn,
Director for Agricultural Corporation, Wm. G. Lynch, Dundalk,

The Treasurer's report as of December 31, 1939 showed a balance of $75.48.

The following resolutions were adopted by the Association:

1. Be it resolved that the Maryland Vegetable Growers' Association continue to appoint two representatives to the Northeast Vegetable and Potato Council, one from Eastern Shore and one from Western Shore to attend these meetings alternatively.

We wish to express our appreciation to the Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc. for deferring these representatives expense in the past and request that they continue such for the benefit of the vegetable industry.

2. Be it resolved that we request of the Research Department of the Maryland Experiment Station more adequate consideration in regards to the vegetable industry's needs as ascertained as necessary in the various producing ares of the State.

3. Be it resolved that we endorse and support the resolution of 1940 of the Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc. regarding the Baltimore Market Facilities.

4. Be it resolved that the Baltimore Market Committee request and follow through with the Agriculture services of the State to coordinate in line with furnishing the needed information to both producers and the trade, in regards to crop conditions in the State and competing areas so that surplusses can be anticipated sufficiently in advance to be handled efficiently.

If special funds are needed for this work, it shall be their duty to have same included in the necessary budget and specifically earmarked.

5. WHEREAS, the maintenance of unhampered and broad markets for agricultural products is a fundamental necessity for vegetable and other growers, and

WHEREAS, discriminatory and punitive taxes on any type of retail distribution tends to restrict farm markets by increasing consumer costs, and

WHEREAS, leading National farm organizations including the Vegetable Growers Association of America and the Northeastern Vegetable and Potato Council have protested such tax laws,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Maryland Vegetable Growers' Association go on record as condemning discriminatory levies on retail distributors as adverse to the farmers best interests, and

6. Be it resolved that an expressing appreciation be extended to those who have made this program possible.

Respectfully submitted by -

Resolution Committee.

(signed) F. R. Todd,

Jack W. Rayner,

C. P. Whiteford.

The Potato and Vegetable Show was larger than ever with a total of 155 entries. Of these 116 were of white potatoes, 18 of sweet potatoes, and 21 of other vegetables.

State Vegetable Exhibit

Lord Baltimore Hotel, Baltimore, Maryland.

January 10th and 11th, 1940.

General Rules

Exhibits may be entered only by growers and only one entry may be made in each class.

No entry fee will be charged. One dollar will be extracted from premiums for membership in the Maryland Vegetable Growers' Association.

Exhibits should be sent by prepaid express or parcels post to the State Vegetable Exhibit, Lord Baltimore Hotel, c/o W. R. Ballard, Baltimore, Maryland, and should arrive not later than January 9th. Judging will begin at 10:00 A.M. on January 10th and no entries will be received after that time.

Arrangements for the return of exhibits must be made by exhibitors, otherwise the exhibits will be disposed of by the Maryland Vegetable Growers' Association.

Premium List

Class I. Best 3 heads cabbage — Flathead Type — 1st, $4.00; 2nd $3.00; 3rd $2.00; 4th $1.00; 5th $1.00.

Class II. Best 3 heads cabbage — Ballhead Type — 1st $4.00; 2nd $3.00; 3rd $2.00; 4th $1.00; 5th $1.00.

Class IV. Best 16 yellow onions — 1st $4.00; 2nd $3.00; 3rd $2.00; 4th $1.00; 5th $1.00.

Class VIII. Best 12 carrots, any variety — 1st $4.00; 2nd $3.00; 3rd $2.00; 4th $1.00; 5th $1.00.

Class X. Best 12 parsnips — 1st $4.00; 2nd $3.00; 3rd $2.00; 4th $1.00; 5th $1.00.

Class XI. Best 16 turnips — 1st $4.00; 2nd $3.00; 3rd $2.00; 4th $1.00; 5th $1.00.

Class XIII. Best 3 Hubbard squash, any type — 1st $4.00; 2nd $3.00; 3rd $2.00; 4th $1.00; 5th $1.00.

Class XV. Best 2 Three-pound Basket mushrooms — 1st $4.00; 2nd $3.00; 3rd $2.00; 4th $1.00; 5th $1.00.

NINTH ANNUAL MARYLAND WHITE AND SWEET POTATO SHOW

Lord Baltimore Hotel, Baltimore, Maryland, January 10-11, 1940

Sponsored by the

Maryland Farm Bureau Federation and Maryland Vegetable Growers Association

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Regulations

Each exhibit shall consist of sixteen potatoes. Only one exhibit may be entered in any class.

No entry fee will be charged. One dollar membership fee will be subtracted from premiums of all exhibitors in adult classes who are not members of the Maryland Vegetable Growers Association. Prize winners in the Junior classes will be made honorary members of the Maryland Vegetable Growers Association.

Exhibits may be entered only by the grower and owner of the field in which the tubers were produced.

Exhibits should be sent by prepaid express or parcel post to the State Potato Show, Lord Baltimore Hotel, C/o Dr. R. A. Jehle, Baltimore, Maryland, and should arrive not later than January 9th. Judging will begin at 10:00 A. M. on January 10th so it is necessary to have the potatoes at the hotel before that time.

Arrangements for the return of the exhibits must be made by the exhibitors; otherwise, the exhibits will be disposed of by the Maryland Vegetable Growers Association.

Group I - Adult Certified

Open to all potato growers in Maryland who have produced seed potatoes eligible for certification. Exhibits must be selected from potatoes grown in fields which have passed all certification requirements of the Maryland Seed Certification Board in two field inspections.

		Premiums
Class I.	Irish Cobbler	1st. $4.00; 2nd. $3.00; 3rd. $2.00; 4th. $1.50; 5th. $1.00; and 6th. $1.00.
Class II.	Smooth Rural (Mason, Rural New Yorker, Mill's Prize, Pioneer Smooth Rural, etc.)	1st. $4.00; 2nd. $3.00; 3rd. $2.00; 4th. $1.50; 5th. $1.00; and 6th. $1.00.
Class III.	Russet Rural	1st. $4.00; 2nd. $3.00; 3rd. $2.00; 4th. $1.50; 5th. $1.00; and 6th. $1.00.
Class IV.	Dakota Red	1st. $4.00; 2nd. $3.00; 3rd. $2.00; 4th. $1.50; 5th. $1.00; and 6th. $1.00.
Class V.	Any Other Variety Variety must be designated.	1st. $4.00; 2nd. $3.00; 3rd. $2.00; 4th. $1.50; 5th. $1.00; and 6th. $1.00.
Class VI.	Sweet Potatoes, Any Variety (Variety must be designated)	1st. $4.00; 2nd. $3.00; 3rd. $2.00; 4th. $1.50; 5th. $1.00; and 6th. $1.00.

Group 2 - Adult Commercial

Open to all potato growers in Maryland.

		Premiums
Class VII.	Irish Cobbler	1st. $4.00; 2nd. $3.00; 3rd. $2.00; 4th. $1.50; 5th. $1.00; & 6th. $1.00.
Class VIII.	Smooth Rural	1st. $4.00; 2nd. $3.00; 3rd. $2.00; 4th. $1.50; 5th. $1.00; & 6th. $1.00.
Class IX.	Russet Rural	1st. $4.00; 2nd. $3.00; 3rd. $2.00; 4th. $1.50; 5th. $1.00; & 6th. $1.00.
Class X.	Dakota Red	1st. $4.00; 2nd. $3.00; 3rd. $2.00; 4th. $1.50; 5th. $1.00; & 6th. $1.00.
Class XI.	Any Other Variety (Variety must be designated)	1st. $4.00; 2nd. $3.00; 3rd. $2.00; 4th. $1.50; 5th. $1.00; & 6th. $1.00.
Class XII.	Sweet Potatoes, Maryland Golden Sweet	1st. $4.00; 2nd. $3.00; 3rd. $2.00; 4th. $1.50; 5th. $1.00; & 6th. $1.00.
Class XIII.	Sweet Potatoes, Any Other Variety (Variety must be designated)	1st. $4.00; 2nd. $3.00; 3rd. $2.00; 4th. $1.50; 5th. $1.00; & 6th. $1.00.

Group 3 - 4-H Club Certified and Commercial

Open to all 4-H Club members listed in the State Office who had potatoes for their project.

Class XIV.	Early Varieties (Irish Cobbler, Warba, Bliss Triumph, etc.) Variety must be designated.	1st. $3.00; 2nd. $2.00; 3rd. $1.50; 4th. $1.00; 5th. $1.00; & 6th. Ribbon.
Class XV.	Medium Late Varieties (Green Mountain, Katahdin, Chippewa, etc.) Variety must be designated.	1st. $3.00; 2nd. $2.00; 3rd. $1.50; 4th. $1.00; 5th. $1.00; & 6th. Ribbon.
Class XVI.	Late Varieties (Rurals, Dakota Red, Sequoia, etc.) Variety must be designated.	1st. $3.00; 2nd. $2.00; 3rd. $1.50; 4th. $1.00; 5th. $1.00; & 6th. Ribbon.

Group 4 - F. F. A. Certified and Commercial

Open to all F. F. A. members who have potatoes for their project.

		Premiums
Class XVII.	Early Varieties (Irish Cobbler, Warba, Bliss Triumph, etc.) Variety must be designated.	1st. $3.00; 2nd. $2.00; 3rd. $1.50; 4th. $1.00; 5th. $1.00; & 6th. Ribbon.
Class XVIII.	Medium Late Varieties (Green Mountain, Katahdin, Chippewa, etc.) Variety must be designated.	1st. $3.00; 2nd. $2.00; 3rd. $1.50; 4th. $1.00; 5th. $1.00; & 6th. Ribbon.
Class XIX.	Late Varieties (Rurals, Dakota Red, Sequoia, etc.) Variety must be designated.	1st. $3.00; 2nd. $2.00; 3rd. $1.50; 4th. $1.00; 5th. $1.00; & 6th. Ribbon.

NEWS LETTER

Issued By
Maryland Vegetable Growers' Association,
W. R. Ballard,
Secretary-Treasurer.

Vol. XVII. No. 2. College Park, Maryland. March, 1940

Excerpts from Minutes of Northeastern Vegetable and Potato Council

December 2, 1939.

Policy of FSCC — State of Mr. Perkins, as presented by Mr. Norman Gold of the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation.

"1. All programs of the Corporation are instituted for Growers' benefits.

2. So long as there is a justification for assistance to growers, the Department will, within the limits of funds make available to it, expend these so as to benefit growers as much as possible.

3. It is extremely unlikely that the Stamp Plan will be placed into effect in more than a small number of the northeastern cities in which farmers' market programs were conducted before the new crop year. On the other hand, it is possible that it will begin before the new crop in some of the very large centers which are substantial markets for your commodities. By setting up regional lists for surplus commodities, we are hopeful of broadening the market among all consumers, by getting merchants to push these commodities placed on the surplus list through the Stamp Plan.

4. There is no intention of discontinuing the Farmers' market direct purchase program where economic factors justify its continuance.

5. This will be true not only for the Farmers' Market where the Stamp Plan is not in effect, but also in areas where it is instituted, if it is found that the latter program does not cope with the situation which both programs are interested in remedying. Where the Stamp Plan is in effect, if direct purchases are necessary, they will be made and the commodities obtained will be distributed so as not to interfere with regular commercial channels through school lunches, charitable institutions, needy boys' camps, and if necessary through shipments to other consuming areas.

6. Both in the direct purchase program and the Stamp Plan we will seek the advise and recommendations of growers, marketing officials and extension agents on the local commodities which should be purchased or placed on the surplus list from time to time.

In summary, you may be assured that there is no difference of opinion on the desirability of meeting the problems of the eastern potato and vegetable producers. What everyone wants is good markets for our products, and we want to see the products which are produced with so much effort, consumed by our people and not go to waste. As we

all know, help by the Federal government is not going to overcome all of the obstacles to improved marketing. None of the efforts can offset mistakes in judgment. Over-planting, bad grading, inadequate packaging and irregular sources of supply, will continue to be major obstacles to better marketing. The individual and joint action of all of you to prevent these, will continue to be fundamental necessities. We in the Department will work our hardest to assist to the best of our abilities in making your work fruitful and permanently beneficial."

Resolutions Passed

RESOLVED, that the Northeastern Potato and Vegetable Council favor the extension of the Stamp Plan as outlined in the discussion by Mr. Gold, provided that FSCC purchases be continued, where needed, regardless of whether the Stamp Plan is operating in that community or not.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the FSCC, both with respect to the Stamp Plan and direct purchases, continue its collaboration with the Northeastern Potato and Vegetable Council and with the industry committee in the various markets.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the FSCC seek to anticipate surpluses of perishables in the northeastern area, to the end that dockets may be prepared sufficiently in advance to avoid unnecessary delay in beginning operations.

WHEREAS, problems of marketing of vegetables and potatoes exist in areas of production in northeast areas which are related to the policy of Federal surplus purchasing and the extension of the Stamp Plan of distribution of surpluses.

BE IT RESOLVED,

1. That the Northeastern Vegetable and Potato Council recommend the organization or strengthening of local organizations of vegetable producers in order to promote better understanding of local distribution problems.

2. That it is of economic advantage to both producers and consumers that supplies of vegetables and potatoes in season be purchased as near to consuming areas as possible.

3. That relationships of local vegetable and potato producers or their organizations and distributors should be studied and improved by better understanding and closer cooperation in local problems of distribution.

4. That the FSCC be requested to assist in improving these relationships in matters of local distribution by encouraging the adoption of policies of such sound economic methods of distribution as will operate to the advantage of local producers of vegetables and potatoes, especially as related to areas in which surplus purchasing and Stamp Plan distribution are in effect.

WHEREAS, discriminatory tax legistlation aimed at any type of distribution tends to restrict growers' Markets and adds to distribution costs which must be borne by consumers and producers, and

WHEREAS, legislation of this type has been condemned by leading national farm organizations,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Northeastern Vegetable and Potato Council go on record as opposed to such legislation as a means of control of any system of distribution of farm products.

RESOLVED, that in view of the importance of the potato industry in this northeast district, the chairman of the Northeastern Vegetable and Potato Council is hereby requested to appoint a committee to study the potato situation and report back to the Council with such recommendations as they deem expedient. This committee to consist of one member from the eastern shore, one from New Jersey, one from Long Island, one from up-state New York, one from Pennsylvania, one from the Connecticut Valley and two from Maine. As the potato problem consists largely of marketing, it is suggested the members be chosen, as far as possible, from potato men familiar with merchandising potatoes. The committee to have authority to add to their number and to call upon marketing experts and others for information and help.

It was agreed that the six-point program adopted May 6, 1939 should be carried on with renewed emphasis and that the following points should be added to the original program.

7. Additional work should be stressed to the end that growers realize their responsibility in providing a steady and dependable supply of produce at all times in season.

8. Recommend increased emphasis by their state and federal institutions on research and extension work in marketing to the end that emphasis on marketing should equal that on production with reference to funds and personnel.

9. Recommend strengthening of existing potato and vegetable growers organizations and formation of new organizations wherever needed.

10. Favor limiting of speculative credit in potato and vegetable production and recommend that immediate studies be made to determine sound methods by which speculative credit may be limited.

January 13, 1940

Change in resolution adopted December 2, 1939.

RESOLVED, that the Northeastern Potato and Vegetable Council favor the extension of the Stamp Plan as outlined in the discussion by Mr. Gold, provided that FSCC purchases be continued, where needed, regardless of whether the Stamp Plan is operating in that community or not in accordance with statement in the minutes by Mr. Gold.

Officers elected for the year 1940:-

Dr. Frank App,	President
Henry G. Marquart,	Vice-President
Allen G. Waller,	Secretary-Treasurer

Considerable discussion was given to the matter of market service in the way of radio price and condition reporting and other ways in which market services could be rendered for the purpose of developing a different program from the U.S.D.A., possibly lessening somewhat the stress on parity payments. It was rather felt that the U.S.D.A. should spend more effort towards improving and expanding its help around marketing lines in the northeast here, rather than some of its present programs which are not so applicable to the northeast. It was brought

out that possibly as much as nine per cent of the cash income to agriculture for the nation as a whole was in the form of government payments, but this is not so true in the case of vegetable and fruit growers.

The question also came up concerning the fact that the Federal Communications Commission has authorized an increase in telegraph rates which will affect seriously the present market news appropriations as they are based on previous communication rates.

The potato situation mentioned in previous meetings was discussed further and the states were requested to send in the names of people who would represent in an authorized way their particular states in the formation of a potato committee.

In view of the widely divergent opinions and general questioning of the situations arising from the Food Stamp Plan, the following resolution was presented and after some discussion passed unanimously:-

> The Northeastern Vegetable and Potato Council appreciates greatly the cooperation and assistance given the farmers in the purchasing of surplus fruit and vegetables. We recommend that under existing conditions, this cooperation and assistance be continued and we further recommend that before any change is made in any city such as a change in direct purchasing from the producer to the Stamp Plan, that local committees of farmers concerned be consulted by Federal authorities and local authorities and that it has the approval of these committees.

It is clearly the opinion of the producers that they should be consulted more definitely about the establishment of the Stamp Plan in their particular area than seems to have been the case in some instances.

After further discussion about the radio news and market news service, the following resolution was presented and passed:

> Due to the highly perishable nature of vegetables and fruits, early morning market reports as collected by the Federal - state market news service and released by special radio cooperation, have filled a need which farmers appreciate. These reports during the past year have been gathered by the regular personnel, which invclves additional effort and time. These men cannot be expected to continue this work unless additional personnel be provided.
> The Northeastern Vegetable and Potato Council therefore recommend that additional moneys be provided to carry on this valuable work and expected increases in this type of work which already have been requested by grower groups in other market areas. Also, due to increased rate of telegraph costs, funds should be secured to offset this added expense.

NEWS LETTER

Issued By
Maryland Vegetable Growers' Association,
W. R. Ballard,
Secretary-Treasurer.

Vol. XVII. No. 4. College Park, Maryland. April, 1940.

Vegetable Industry Grows. The total acreage of truck crops has more than trebled since 1920. Fresh vegetables for both market and for canning and processing have increased in production. California leads in commercial production with more than a million acres. Texas is next in order followed by Indiana, Wisconsin, Maryland, New York, Florida and New Jersey.

Unfortunately income to the farmer from these truck crops has not increased.

The Regional Research Laboratories of the U. S. Department of Agriculture are developing types of research to deal with improvements and refinements in processing these perishables as food materials and in profitably utilizing the wastes and culls which arise in their processing. Accomplishments in the non-food field show that careful research may disclose substances in vegetables which may have important industrial uses.

There has been a rapid increase in the frozen pack industry. In 1928 there was practically no frozen vegetables available but in ten years the pack reached a total of approximately 84 million pounds. There is need for such fundamental research in this direction.

One of the most astounding developments has been that of the tomato juice production. In ten years this has grown to a pack (in 1937) of 13,445,000 cases. Much research is now being done on other vegetable juices and the future may show a tremendous development in this direction.

Dehydration has never attained large proportions, principally because of the slowness of the dried product to absorb water. However, in recent years the technique of dehydration has been improved and future possibilities of this method are promising.

The disposal of vegetable wastes is a critical problem in many areas and research in the utilization of this material is greatly needed. It may be possible to extract certain constituents such as pectin which have a fairly high relative value.

Considerable interest has been aroused in recent years in the idea that farmers could grow raw products for industry. As far as the farmer is concerned this is not likely to offer much of an inducement because of the relatively low value of the raw product.

Most of the information above has been gleaned from the Outline for Regional Research Project approved February 16, 1938.

"Effect of Various Grades of Fertilizers on the Salt Content of the Soil Solution."

An interesting observation is made by Lawrence M. White and William H. Ross in the Journal of Agricultural Research in regard to the modern use of high

analysis fertilizers. The summary of the experiments reported upon is as follows:

"A study was made of the effect of fertilizers on the concentration of the soil solution in Norfolk sandy loam and Cecil clay loam soils. The procedure followed consisted of mixing the fertilizer to be tested with a sample of soil, adjusting the moisture content of the soil to 75 percent of its moisture equivalent, allowing it to stand at 5° C. for 5 days, separating the soil solution from the soil by the displacement method, determining the concentration of the solution by freezing-point depression measurements, and comparing its concentration with that of the solution recovered from the unfertilized soil.

For equal applications of plant food the phosphates and free ammonia had the least effect on the concentration of the soil solution of both the soils used in the tests, while sodium nitrate and the low-grade potash salts had the greatest effect.

The extent to which a fertilizer increased the concentration of the soil solution was much greater with the Norfolk soil than with the Cecil soil. The difference in the osmotic pressure of the soil solutions of the two soils largely disappreared, however, when their moisture content was the same.

Comparison of the formulas of fertilizer mixtures representatives of those in use at different periods in the history of the fertilizer industry shows that a marked change has taken place not only in the grade but also in the composition of mixed fertilizers.

Mixtures typical of those in use in 1880 and in 1910 are much alike in their effect on the concentration of the soil solution, whereas the influence of the average present-day mixture is considerably less than that of either of the other two mixtures. The reduced effect of present-day mixtures on the salt content of the soil solution is due (1) to the increased plant-food content of the mixture whereby less fertilizer has to be distributed per acre for a given application of plant food, (2) to the replacement of kainit and other low-grade potash salts with high-grade muriate, and (3) to the substitution in part of free ammonia for other soluble nitrogenous materials.

While the effect of fertilizers on the concentration of the soil solution does not necessarily decrease with increase in the grade of the mixture, this relationship holds true, as a rule, for mixtures of the same plant-food ratio when these are prepared as in present commercial practice. It is possible to prepare a 6-8-4 mixture from present-day materials that has less effect on the salt content of the soil solution than the 3-8-4 mixtures formerly used. The results indicate that danger of salt injury from typical present-day mixtures is less than from mixtures formerly used, even when the nitrogen in the latter mixtures is applied to the crop in split applications."

This is a relatively new idea and if further work on different soils and under different conditions confirm the results of recent work, it will be possible to effect important economics by using high analysis fertilizers with less injury to plants from the salt solution than followed the use of low grade fertilizers formerly used.

NEWS LETTER

Issued by
Maryland Vegetable Growers' Association,
W. R. Ballard,
Secretary-Treasurer.

Vol. XVII. No. 5. College Park, Maryland. May, 1940.

Pea Field Meeting. Notices are out announcing a pea field meeting at the Ridgely Sub-station, Ridgely, Md., at 1:30 P.M. Wednesday, May 29th. Any grower interested in this crop would find it worthwhile looking over the 200 plots in the various tests and demonstrations.

Spinach Field Meeting. County Agent, H. B. Derrick is planning a field meeting at 2:00 P.M. Friday, May 31, at the farm of George H. Stratman, Sparrows Point, Md. on North Point Road near Wise Avenue. Spinach plots showing Re-selected Bloomsdale, Aristocrat, Viking and Giant Nobel planted in rows will be seen. A feature of the occasion will be the demonstration of a two-row harvester which cuts the leaves just above the crown. If this machine harvests the spinach effectively it may revolutionize not only the harvesting methods in this district but also planting methods.

Sweet potato Storage Studies. Prof. H. B. Cordner, formerly of the University of Maryland Experiment Station but now with the Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College, Stillwater, Oklahoma, has been investigating storage problems with Nancy Hall, Porto Rico and Maryland Golden sweet potatoes. The Maryland Golden is the most difficult to store successfully.

The results of these studies indicate that roots of the Nancy Hall shrink least in storage and keep satisfactorily following curing at temperatures as low as 70°F. Porto Rico stores best after being cured at 92°F. with slightly greater storage loss at 80°F. The greatest storage losses occur with the Maryland Golden and it appears imperative to maintain a high curing temperature (about 90°F.). It also appears desirable to maintain high humidity conditions to avoid shrivelling. A relative humidity of 70 or higher seems desirable.

Storage of Vegetable Seeds. In regions of high humidity there is considerable loss in vitality of seeds in the short period between production and distribution to vegetable growers. Dr. V. R. Boswell and others of the Federal Horticultural Field Station have been studying the storage of ten vegetable seeds under varying conditions of temperature and humidity. The results are published in the 1938 report of the Society for Horticultural Science.

Particular attention has been given to germination and viability. Other investigators have shown that to preserve viability when temperatures are high the humidity should be low and vice-versa.

The seeds tested were Henderson Bush lima, Bountiful bean, Narrow Grain Evergreen sweet corn, Detroit Dark Red beet, All Seasons cabbage, Chantenay carrot, Yellow Bermuda onion, Long Standing Bloomsdale spinach, Bonny Best tomato, and freshly shelled Spanish 18-38 peanut.

Seeds were placed in temperatures of 80° F. and 50° F. with relative humidities varying from high, medium, to low.

At 80° F. and high humidity all seeds except beets showed deterioration after 110 days. Sweet corn, onion, and spinach were practically destroyed within 60 days.

At 50° F. beans, sweet corn, peanut, and onions were the only seeds which lost viability after 110 days.

Those interested in further details of the tests should read the original paper.

Under Consumption -- A Potential Market. Studies recently made show that practically everything which the former raises in this country, with the possible exception of cotton and wheat, could be used, provided only that the consumer had the wherewithal to purchase them. On the other hand there is plenty of work in the country to be done. Somewhere there is a key or keys to unlock these potential forces. People want jobs, there is work to be done, there are products badly needed by the monkey wrench out of the machinery, please step up!

Perhaps, we are looking in the wrong place. Maybe these are problems not to be solved by the government but by hundreds of individuals, here and there, bringing their thoughts to bear on the log jam. Instead of bemoaning the fact that "things are not what they were", we should analyze the new situations to see if there are not new solutions which can meet the situation. One fundamental principle seems still to hold and that is, progress is to be made by ever doing things more efficiently, cutting down costs of production, eliminating wastes both in products and in the use of labor, power, and machinery. None of us are so efficient that we could not make improvements if the situation were carefully studied.

NEWS LETTER
Issued by

Maryland Vegetable Growers' Association,
W. R. Ballard,
Secretary-Treasurer.

Vol. XVII. No. 6. College Park, Maryland. June, 1940.

Baltimore County Spinach Field Meeting. A spinach feild meeting was held on Friday, May 31, 1940, on the farm of George Strattman, in the Patapsco Neck area of Baltimore County. The weather cleared to provide an ideal day for the field meeting, and 105 of the leading spinach growers of Baltimore County, canners, commission merchants, representatives of seed and fertilizer firms, and spinach field workers, gathered to witness the two principal features of the program.

A demonstration of a spinach cutting machine, which cut two rows of spinach in one operation, was the center of great interest, since this is the first field spinach cutting machine to be put into operation in this area, which is the largest spinach growing center in Maryland. Groups of 25 to 50 people followed the machine in its course around the field. As the rows of spinach were cut with a revolving blade close above the ground, and elevated on a belt, and dropped into basket and box containers, they were packed by the operator riding on the platform of the machine. The boxes full of spinach were taken off the moving machine, and carried to a nearby truck for hauling to the canner.

Comments from those in attendance indicated that it was the opinion of many that the machine was doing a satisfactory job, although it was observed that a level field was necessary for the operation, and there was a possibility of stones or foreign material putting the machine out of order. On the whole it was evident that the machine could do a good job when properly adjusted. It is, of course, important to have fields free of weeds.

The other features of the field meeting was a tour of the spinach demonstration plots, where reselected Bloomsdale and Aristocrat varieties of Savoy type spinach, and Viking and Nobel varieties of smooth-leafed spinach were grown in adjacent plots and replication plots grown on two fields on the farm.

The County Agent explained that the field meeting and test plots resulted from activities of the Joint Committee of Canners, Commission Merchants, Producers, County Agents and Representatives of the University of Maryland, and as a result of a request of spinach growers through the Baltimore County Farm Bureau Truckers' Local.

Dr. C. H. Mahoney, Professor of Olericulture, was introduced and explained the spinach demonstration plots which were conducted under his supervision. Dr. H. A. Hunter, Canning Crops Specialist, made observations regarding the spinach test plots and varieties. Mr. Paul Nystrom, Assistant County Agent Leader, represented the State Extension Service, and congratulated the various branches of the spinach growing industry for their working together to improve the spinach industry in the Baltimore area.

Spinach Canning Variety Trial
George Stratmann's Farm
Sparrows Point, Md. - 1940.

Spring Crop.

Variety	Mean Yield Per Plot (Average of 8) Pounds	Mean Yield Per Acre Pounds Leaf Spinach	Tons Per Acre Leaf Spinach	Leaf Type
Viking	522	13,050	6.52	Smooth
Nobel	631	15,775	7.89	Smooth
Reselected Bloomsdale	630	16,750	8.37	Savoy
Aristocrat*	324	8,100	4.05	Savoy
Difference Required For Significance Odds 19 to 1.	157.5	3,937	1.96	

*Very poor stand.

There were no significant differences in yield between any of the first three varieties. The lower yield of Viking was due to the lower yield in two plots out of the eight but due to the fluctuation in yield between plots the difference in average yield between Viking and Reselected Bloomsdale cannot be attributed to any inherent difference in yielding ability of the two strains. The significantly lower yield of Aristocrat was due entirely to poor stands caused by low seed germination. The type was excellent and this type was later and darker green in color when compared with Reselected Bloomsdale.

The spring of 1940 was not considered by spinach growers to be very favorable for heavy yields but the results of the variety trials have shown that late spring spinach grown in rows will yield as heavily as broadcast spinach. The smooth leaf varieties did not outyield savoyed leaf spinach but the first years results demonstrate that this type of spinach can be grown commercially in this area if there is a demand for such a type.

NEWS-LETTER

Issued by

The Maryland Vegetable Growers' Association

W. P. Ballard,
Secretary-Treasurer

Vol. XVII. No. 7 College Park, Maryland July, 1940

Seeds for 1941

A recent release from the United States Department of Agriculture indicates that adequate supplies of seeds are on hand to take care of the 1940 needs. However, it is indicated that a larger domestic production of certain seeds for 1941 will be necessary.

"Seeds chiefly affected are those of such soil-conserving crops as crimson clover, white clover, rye grass, orchard grass, and hairy vetch, and of such vegetables as spinach, cauliflower, cabbage, radishes, and carrots.

Indications are that commercial vegetable seed growers have anticipated reduced imports and plan increased acreage of needed vegetable crops, officials said, "While records on vegetable seed production are incomplete, Department officials said that reduction in imports of vegetable seeds is less of a problem now than it was at the time of the World War, since domestic production of vegetable seeds has increased and imports have decreased in the last 20 years."

"Great Britain, France, Germany, Denmark, and Holland have for years been the chief sources for United States imports of vegetable seeds."

Nutrient Solutions for Transplanting Tomatoes

Charles B. Sayre, of the New York Experiment Station, has been experimenting with the use of nutrient solutions in the transplanting of tomatoes. A number of combinations of fertilizers were tried. The summary indicates the treatment giving best results.

Nutrient Solutions for Packing Plants

For shipping plants to distant growers the usual practice is to pack the plants in bundles of 50 with some moistened peat moss around the roots. Hester (1) suggested that the plants might arrive in better condition if a nutrient solution were used instead of plain water to moisten the peat moss which was packed around the roots. A Georgia plant grower cooperated in an experiment in which a group of tomato plants was divided into two lots. One lot was packed in the usual way and the other lot was packed in a similar manner except that the peat moss had been saturated with a nutrient solution composed of 2 pounds of the special transplanting mixture (Table I) per 50 gallons of water. The plants were shipped in the usual manner and were planted in a uniformly fertilized field at Geneva. In addition a starter solution was used in transplanting some of the regularly packed plants. This transplanting solution was made up of 4 pounds of the special transplanting mixture per 50 gallons of water and 1/2 pint was used per plant.

Twenty-one plants were set per row and each treatment was replicated five times in randomized arrangement. The yield records are presented in the Table, which shows that there was a slight but not significant gain both in early and total yields from the use of nutrient solution in packing the plants for shipment. Although the gain from this treatment was not statistically significant, it suggests the possibility that other nutrient solutions or rates of application might prove worth while. The very marked gain from the use of the same solution (at double the concentration) poured around the roots as the plants were transplanted to the field is a striking demonstration of the value of starter solutions for transplanting southern tomato plants.

Effect of Nutrient Solution for Packing Plants

	Yield of Tomatoes			
	To August 31		Total Yields	
	Tons per acre	Gain	Tons per acre	Gain
Georgia plants packed with peat moss and water	1.66	——	9.27	——
Georgia plants packed with peat moss and nutrient solution	2.07	0.41	9.81	0.54
Georgia plants transplanted with nutrient solution	3.41	1.71	11.62	2.35
Difference required to significance		0.45		0.88

Summary

Summarizing the results briefly, the mixture of two parts of Ammo Phos 11-48 and one part nitrate of potash proved as effective and less expensive than any other combinations of chemicals tried in these tests. Increasing the concentration and reducing the amount of solution per plant increased its effectiveness within the limits tested. Another mixture that was outstandingly effective was composed of equal parts of mono-potassium phosphate and di-ammonium phosphate. Nutrient solutions containing nitrogen, phosphoric acid, and potash were more effective than solutions lacking any one of these essential ingredients. The principal effect of a starter solutionsused in transplanting tomatoes is in enabling the plant to become established quickly. This results in a marked gain in earlier maturity. It is particularly effective with southern grown plants or local plants grown under crowded conditions and which are likely to be low in minerals at the time they are transplanted.

News Letter

Issued by

The Maryland Vegetable Growers Association

W. R. Ballard

Secretary-Treasurer

Vol. XVII No. 8 College Park, Maryland August, 1940.

Vegetable Show. Word has just been received from Dr. T. B. Symons that the Maryland State Fair Board will again appropriate funds for the Annual Potato and Vegetable Show to be held in connection with the annual meetings in Baltimore, during the week beginning Monday, January 13, 1941.

Announcement is made at this time so that growers can make plans for saving exhibits. Because of the limitations of space, only exhibits of the highest quality are solicited. The classes will be approximately the same as last year. The vegetable schedule will call for three heads each of Flathead and Ballhead cabbage, 16 yellow onions, 12 carrots, 12 parsnips, 16 turnips, 3 Hubbard squash, and 2 three pound baskets of mushrooms.

Detailed schedules for both potatoes and vegetables will be available later.

Summer Meeting Vegetable Growers Association of America. An unusual opportunity is afforded Maryland vegetable growers because the summer meeting of the V.G.A. is to be held in nearby Philadelphia, August 26th to 29th. Nationally known speakers will be heard and inspection tours to production and processing plants will be of outstanding interest.

Two Conducted Tours:

Wednesday, August 28th. Leave Philadelphia at 8:00 A.M. by bus for New Jersey trip.

Morning. (a) Visit tomato field of Campbell Soup Company, - variety trials, fertilizer plots, spraying and dusting plots, and the use of starter solutions for starting young tomato plants.

(b) Inspection of Glassboro Auction Market. Lunch here.

Afternoon. Visit Seabrook Farms in Southern Jersey, - home of Birds-eye frosted foods.

First stop - See how steers are fed vegetable refuse (Pea vines, etc.).

Second stop - 450 acre field under irrigation. See how vegetables are grown on a large intensive scale under irrigation.

Third stop - Quick freezing plant where peas, lima beans, strawberries, snap beans, and asparagus are frozen.

Return to Philadelphia at 5:30 P. M.

Thursday, August 29th - Leave Philadelphia at 8:00 A.M. by bus ($1.50 fare) for Pennsylvania trip.

Stop at Comly's & Sons Farms, Bustletown, Pa.

Stop at Becker's Farms.

Stop at King's Farms (2400 acres) for lunch. A. C. Thompson, President of the V. G. A., is general manager.

See the washing demonstration, tractors, transplanters, liquid fertilizer distributors, new plows, and cultivators, fertilizer placement, and distributing machines.

See how vegetables are grown on large mechanized scale, how they are harvested, sorted, washed, and packed for shipment. A great deal of information in new trends of production, grading and packing and merchandizing can be obtained on this trip.

Return to Philadelphia at 6:00 P. M.

Modern competition makes it desirable for growers to keep abreast of the times by learning of new tools, methods, and processes. W. D. Brown, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, is secretary of the V. G. A. and he will be glad to send further details.

Potato Notes. The early crop has generally given a satisfactory yield but the price has not been as good as could be expected.

On account of a serious outbreak of late blight last Fall, there has been a scarcity of stock for planting the late crop. This applies especially to the Dakota Red which is the main late variety planted on the lower levels.

Considerable interest has been manifested in the new varieties of potatoes such as Sequoia which show resistance to late blight and some other troubles. As soon as stock is available, there will no doubt be a much wider planting of some of the more promising new sorts.

NEWS LETTER
Issued by
The Maryland Vegetable Growers Association
W. R. Ballard
Secretary-Treasurer

Vol. XVII No. 9 College Park, Maryland September, 1940.

Table Queen Squash. A grower recently was dilating on the good qualities of the Table Queen squash. The history of this squash is quite obscure, according to the "Vegetables of New York", but it seems certain that its commercial culture first developed in the region around Des Moines. The Iowa Seed Co., Des Moines, Iowa, listed it in 1913 and showed an excellent illustration of it. This squash goes under a number of names, Acorn being one of the most common.

The most popular form is dark green in color, smooth with ribs widely separated. The fruits are small, five to six inches long and four to four and one-half inches in diameter. The rind is thin but hard, and the golden yellow flesh is firm, somewhat fibrous, and of very good quality. They are especially fine for baking.

The Table Queen is now found on all important markets but it is probable that the demand for them would increase, if consumers were more familiar with their good qualities. They seem to keep late in the fall much like the Hubbard squash.

Small Sized Watermelons. A small round watermelon with yellow flesh and high quality under the name of Honey Cream is being pushed by some seedsmen. It matures early but unfortunately the rind is too tender to stand shipping. It weighs about 25 pounds. Its good qualities should recommend it for local markets and for roadside stands.

The Cornell Extension Service reports that a new variety of this type, Early Kansas, shows promise as a shipping melon. It is said to be a week later than Honey Cream, has crisp red flesh of excellent color, and quality. The rind is tough and will stand up under shipping conditions. The shape is round, the color being light green with broad bands of wavy stripes. The weight runs usually from 30 to 40 pounds, occasional specimens running to 60 pounds. It appears to be a productive sort and is rapidly becoming the most popular melon in Kansas and eastern Colorado.

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A grower in northern Baltimore County was recently relating his experiences with the new Katahdin potato. He planted two bushels of certified seed and dug about 80 bushels of fine potatoes. He likes them much better than Irish Cobbler because of their smooth surface and shallow eyes. He has grown potatoes in the same plot for a number of years but he has been careful to use only the best grade of seed, and to keep up the fertility of the soil. Usually there is danger in continuing any crop on the same plot for several years in the gradual accumulation of diseases, which tends to make themselves evident in decreasing yields.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with the State Experiment Stations in the potato growing sections, has undertaken in broad lines an improvement project with this crop which is already beginning to show important results.

Attention is being given particularly to the question of disease resistance and while the problem is quite complicated, some definite progress has been made. Last fall the late blight was quite disastrous in many sections of Maryland. For this reason, many growers are anxious to try out the new late potato, Sequoia, which appears to be resistant not only to this disease but to some extent to insect attacks.

The discovery in recent years of wild potatoes in sections of old Mexico growing under rather warm conditions lends interest to the possibility that varieties can ne developed which will be better adapted to hot, dry summer conditions.

Cantaloupe Experiment at Hurlock. For the past two years the Department of Horticulture has conducted at Hurlock, Maryland, rather extensive experiments with sprays and dusts for the control of cantaloupe diseases. The work for this year was recently concluded and a few notes and general observations concerning the experiment are given here. The experiment this year was enlarged over that of last year and included (1) work with fertilizer placement and rates of application, (2) variety and strain testing, (3) the testing of 9 sprays and 6 dusts for disease control and (4) the testing of over 400 new types and introductions (most of them from India and Afghanistan) for disease resistance. The data obtained have not been completely compiled and analyzed yet and specified conclusions cannot be drawn. It is hoped that the detailed account will be made available in the news letter in the near future.

The test of sprays and dusts was not as successful as last year because of lack any disease on the plants until late in the season. However, at the end of the season, powdery mildew became quite prevalent and some outstanding differences were apparent in the control of the disease by the various treatments. All of the copper dusts controlled the powdery mildew more effectively than any of the sprays with exception of Bordeaux. Taking everything into consideration, the best treatments of all 15 tested were Bordeaux and the Red copper-oxide-talc dust.

Phosphorous under the row appeared to cause earlier fruiting and netting of the melons but final yield was not any greater than that obtained by use of the standard two band applications of a complete fertilizer.

Considerable difference was observed in the uniformity and general vigor of plants in a given variety when the seed was obtained from different seed courses. The best Pink Meat strain was that from the Rocky Ford Seed Breeders.

Only three of the more than 400 introductions appeared to possess any considerable degree of resistance to macrosporium or downy mildew. However, a small proportion of them seemed highly resistant to powdery mildew.

NEWS LETTER

Issued by

The Maryland Vegetable Growers' Association
W.R.Ballard,
Secretary-Treasurer.

Vol. XVII No. 10 College Park, Maryland. October, 1940.

The Sequoia Potato. According to Dr. R.A. Jehle, State Plant Pathologist, a new late potato variety, known as the Sequoia, has been compared with the standard Rural and Dakota varieties in Maryland during the past five years. It has consistently outyielded these varieties by 50 to 100 bushels per acre. This potato is a cross between the Green Mountain and Katahdin varieties and was bred by the North Carolina Experiment Station in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture. It is resistant, but not immune, to Late Blight and to injury from leaf hoppers and flea beetles. Its quality is at least as good as Rurals and Dakota Reds. Fields of Sequoia potatoes should be sprayed for the control of Late Blight, flea beetle, and leaf hopper, but these pests are much easier to control in the Sequoia variety than in other varieties. Approximately 1,000 bushels of Sequoia potatoes were produced in Garrett County under the supervision of the University of Maryland Extension Service. Anyone interested in purchasing Sequoia seed potatoes should get in touch with J. H. Carter, County Agent, Oakland, Maryland.

Do You Have Any Program Ideas?

It will soon be time to develop the program for the annual meeting in Baltimore next January. The Secretary will appreciate any suggestions as to subjects which should be discussed or speakers who might appear on the program. Let us have your ideas.

The Annual Meetings. The issuing of this number of the News Letter has been held up pending receipt of information as to whether money would be made available by the State Fair Board for enlarging the winter exhibit to include certain vegetables in addition to the regular potato display. Word has just been received that the budget set up has been approved and plans will now go forward for enlarging the exhibit. The exhibit will still be installed in the Lord Baltimore Hotel, but the poultry interests will be taken care of in some outside building, thus releasing space for the additional entries of other products.

Notwithstanding the fact that the dates for the show are rather late for many of the vegetables, the schedule has been set up to include, primarily those types which can readily be stored.

It would be appreciated if the members will enter as many classes as possible and induce neighbors and friends to do the same.

Schedule of Classes for State Vegetable Exhibit. Lord Baltimore Hotel, Baltimore, Maryland, January 14, 15, 16, 1941.

Sponsored by the Maryland Vegetable Growers Association.

General Rules

Exhibits may be entered only by growers and only one entry may be made in each class.

No entry fee will be charged. One dollar will be extracted from premiums for membership in the Maryland Vegetable Growers Association.

Exhibits should be sent by prepaid express or parcel post to the State Vegetable Exhibit, Lord Baltimore Hotel, c/o W.R.Ballard, Baltimore, Maryland, and should arrive not later than January 14th. Judging will begin at 10:00 a.m. on January 15th and no entries will be received after that time.

Arrangements for return of exhibits must be made by the exhibitors, otherwise the exhibits will be disposed of by the Maryland Vegetable Growers Association.

Premium List

Class 1. Best 3 heads cabbage, Flathead type — 1st. $4.00; 2nd $3.00; 3rd. $2.00.

Class 2. Best 3 heads cabbage, Ballhead type — 1st. $4.00; 2nd $3.00; 3rd. $2.00.

Class 4. Best 16 yellow onions — 1st, $4.00; 2nd. $3.00; 3rd, $2.00.

Class 8. Best 12 carrots, any variety — 1st, $4.00; 2nd, $3.00; 3rd, $2.00.

Class 10. Best 12 parsnips — 1st. $4.00; 2nd. $3.00; 3rd. $2.00.

Class 11. Best 16 turnips — 1st. $4.00; 2nd. $3.00, 3rd. $2.00.

Class 13. Best 3 Hubbard squash, any type — 1st. $4.00; 2nd. $3.00; 3rd.$2.00.

Class 15. Best 2 three pound baskets of mushrooms — 1st. $4.00; 2nd. $3.00; 3rd. $2.00.

NEWS LETTER

Issued by
The Maryland Vegetable Growers Association
W. R. Ballard, Secretary Treasurer

Vol. XVII No.11 College Park, Maryland November, 1940.

Report on Sweet Potatoes Grown in New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware, and Virginia.

(While this report gets to you a little late, it contains matter pertinent to all growers and shippers of vegetable produce).

SPECIAL REPORT ON SWEET POTATOES GROWN IN NEW JERSEY, MARYLAND, DELAWARE, AND VIRGINIA

The following information was obtained from Wholesalers, Jobbers, Independent and Chain retailers. The entire trade was in accordance with the following facts.

They prefer the Potatoes in tub bushels; want them well graded, a chunky potato of about 2 inches size. Potatoes should be well brushed and clean in appearance. Everyone contacted complained that practically every shipment was over-faced, and an inspection of fifteen lots on the wholesale market, found this to be a common practice. The top layer of the basket would be just what the trade wanted. Underneath this layer, however, Jumbos and Mediums, as well as Fancies, were thrown together. The trade suggests that the growers grade more carefully, packing Jumbos by themselves and selling them to the best advantage.

The retailers advise that the consumer prefers a moist Sweet Potato, similar to the Louisiana type Sweet. One large Chain advised that New England will use this type of potato, but it is hard work to get the consumers using the stock that is now being offered from those States.

The U. S. Government market report for October 14th, is as follows

SWEET POTATOES: MARKET DULL. U.S. No.1 N.Car. bu.basket. Porto Ricans 1.00-1.25 poorer 60-85¢. Md.E.Sh.bu.bskt. Goldens U.S.No. 1 75-90 some 1.00, mediums 65-80, Jumbos and No.2 40-50¢. Va.E.Sh.bu.basket. Jersey type & Goldens 60-75 poorer 40-50¢; Porto Ricans 65-85 poorer 50-60¢. Stave bbls. Jersey type and Goldens 1.50-1.75 poorer 1.25, Porto Ricans 1.75-2.00, poorer 1.50-1.62½. New Jersey-bu.hmpr.Jersey type U.S. No.1, 1-1.15, few 1.25, poorer 50-75¢.

You will notice the Jumbos are selling around 40-50¢, while No. 1's and Fancies will go from 75-1.00.

Sweet potatoes are now being listed by a number of newspapers in New York City, and also by Mrs. Cannon's consumers' news (radio) as a "good buy". I am contacting the newspapers again, so that they will continue to give Sweet Potatoes publicity.

I believe that is would be best for the growers to grade more carefully and if they need instructions in grading I believe that their Department of Agriculture will be willing to assist them.

OPPORTUNITY FOR GROWING SPICES

The European war has largely shut off supplies of spices and American processors are faced with a serious situation since immense quantities of some forms have been imported in the past. The Experiment Station is looking into the possibility of Marvland production of these crops. Vegetable growers looking for new cash crops might well investigate the possibilities in this direction.

It is thought that the following sorts could, perhaps, be raised satisfactorily in certain sections of the State: Anise seed, Leaf sage, Mustard Seed, Caraway seed, Thyme, Whole Savory, Sweet Marjoram, Bay leaves, Dill seed, Fennel, Poppy seed, Coriander, Cumin seed, Celery seed, Whole mint leaves, Cardamon seed, and Rosemary leaves.

A good market is already in existence, but it remains to be seen whether these crops can be produced in quantities and at such a cost as to make it a profitable adventure. No doubt other parts of the United States will be found more adaptable for the production of many of these crops, but a few of them might turn out to be distinct additions to the Maryland farm industry.

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Recent reports from the U.S.D.A. indicate that "motor equipment displaced nearly 10 million horses and mules on farms between 1915 and 1939. A prediction: Approximately 1.5 million horses and mules more may be displaced by tractors by 1950".

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News Letter
Issued by

The Maryland Vegetable Growers Association
W. R. Ballard
Secretary-Treasurer

-25-

Vol. XVII No. 12, College Park, Maryland, Dec., 1940.

Short on Seeds. Paul Work of Cornell University, writing in Seed World, reports that the supply of seeds of cauliflower, spinach, carrot, onions, and radish are short and prices have advanced from 50% to 200% compared with those of last year. The reasons for this shortage are the war and a short crop in this country.

No great increases have been made in the price of other seeds yet these may come later. Growers should test their seeds for germination and give extra care to seed beds.

The Annual Meetings. Members last year expressed satisfaction with the change in the plan for the program, so that the same method will be followed for the next meeting. You are requested to attend the meeting on January 15th, 1941, and to urge your neighbors and friends to attend and take part in the discussions. Such contributions will add much to the success of the sessions.

Don't forget the potato and vegetable exhibit and make an entry of quality products. Space is not available for any great expansion in the size of the exhibit but representative samples of high grade vegetables are solicited. The October News Letter lists the vegetable classes and the potato list will be sent to any who have not already received copies.

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